The Marker Lamp

Volume 59 Number 1 Winter 2013

A string of Santa Fe beauties cross a deep gorge on Gordon Bliss' ATSF N scale railroad during HOOTERS 2012. Photo by Arthur Houston

Lone Star Express

LSR 2013 Convention

Dallas / Fort Worth Metroplex

May 29 to June 2
Mark your calendar and attend!

In This Issue

President's Message	3
Convention Info	5
Up The Track	8
HOOTERS	9
You Should Have Seen...	11
ELF Stories '12	12
Secretary/Treasurer's Report	16
News	17
Directors' Reports	17

The Marker Lamp

The Official Publication of
The Lone Star Region of the
National Model Railroad Association

Volume 59, Number 1

EDITOR
RILEY TRIGGS
1005 Robert E Lee Rd
Austin, Texas 78704-2026
(512) 533-9735
rileytriggs@gmail.com

ADVERTISING & MAILING LIST
TOM BROWNING
5923 Overdowns Circle
Dallas, Texas 75230-4039
(214) 692-9784
thomascb2004@yahoo.com

Visit the LSR's web page at:
www.lonestarregion.com

The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association. Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, selfaddressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads, Dealer Ads, Address Changes and requests for extra copies should be addressed to

Tom Browning, MMR
5923 Overdowns Circle
Dallas, Texas 75230-4039
(214) 692-9784

Submission Deadlines & Advertising Closing Dates

Winter Issue.....January 15
Spring Issue .....April 15
Summer Issue.....July 15
Fall Issue.....October 15

Internet Post Date:
Approx. 30 Days After Deadline.
Materials received after the deadline will be held for the next issue unless the author requests otherwise.

Lone Star Region Call Board

LSR Officers

PRESIDENT
BILL MCPHERSON
4402 Vista Creek Drive
Rowlett, Texas 75088-1818
(972) 463-9721
tpbill@attglobal.net

VICE-PRESIDENT
BOB BARNETT
2925 Plumb Street
Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 660`8820
rbarnett@hrgreen.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER
TOM BROWNING, MMR
5923 Overdowns Circle
Dallas, Texas 75230-4039
(214) 692-9784
thomascb2004@yahoo.com

BOARD ADVISOR
GERALD SCHOENBERG, MMR
1039 Clinton Street
Carrollton, Texas 75007-4828
(972) 242-9053
arrjerry@aol.com

SECRETARY-EMERITUS
EUNICE LINDA
3028 Cumberland
Waco, Texas 76707-1219
(254) 754-5535
jlinda@hot.rr.com

LSR Directors-At-Large

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
DUANE RICHARDSON, MMR
1122 Holland Drive
Garland, Texas 75040
(972) 495-6375 E-mail:
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
TRACY MITCHELL, MMR
12018 Troulon
Houston, Texas 77072-4032
(281) 495-1669
traymit@comcast.net

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
ART HOUSTON
209 Sugar Highland Blvd.
Houma, Louisiana 70360
(504) 723-9290
ahouston3@charter.net

LSR Division Directors

COWCATCHER DIVISION (1)
CHRIS ATKINS
1633 Parkside Trail
Lewisville, Texas 75077
(214) 222-1285
chris@railroadermodelers.com

BAYOU DIVISION (2)
ROD FREDERICKS
640 Chippenham Dr.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808
(225) 766-8014
fredericks.rod@gmail.com

NORTH EAST TEXAS DIVISION (3)
JERRY HOVERSON, MMR
1900 Spring Blossom Ct.
McKinney, Texas 75070
(972) 540-5315
jhoverson@tx.rr.com

CEN-TEX DIVISION (4)
JACK MERKEL
2408 Whitewater Dr.
Bertram, Texas 78605
(512) 355-3289
ElmerMerk@aol.com

DIVISION (5)
DAVE LAMBERTS
3717 95th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79423-3811
(806) 792-7244
DavidWL1944@aol.com

DIVISION (6)
TOM CROSTHWAIT
5922 Forest Ledge
San Antonio, Texas 78240
(210) 647-3261
E-mail: t.crosthwait@sbcglobal

DIVISION (7)
DON P. KIMMELL
9132 Mansfield Road
Shreveport, Louisiana 71118
(318) 798-7718
elf4kcs@mac.com

TEXAS GULF DIVISION (8)
LESLIE BODAK
16323 Mill Point Dr.
Houston, Texas 77059
(281) 486-0709
lbjbodak@gmail.com

LSR Chairs

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM
AL BOOS, MMR
130 Surrey Lane
Universal City, Texas 78148
(210) 658-4548
AandVBoos3@aol.com

CONVENTION
BILL MCPHERSON
4402 Vista Creek Drive
Rowlett, Texas 75088-1818
(972) 463-9721
tpbill@attglobal.net

EVENTS
BILL DRYDEN
1411 Briar Hill Drive
Georgetown, Texas 78626
(469) 964-8571
bdr149@airmail.net

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRMAN
LARRY SWIGERT
6548 Clearhaven Circle
Dallas, Texas 75248
(972) 239-0909
LS4Results@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRMAN
MIKE JOBE
418 Houston Street
Royse City, Texas 75189
(972) 635-9501
michaeljobe@hotmail.com

PUBLICATIONS
RILEY TRIGGS
1005 Robert E Lee Rd
Austin, Texas 78704
(512) 533-9735
rileytriggs@gmail.com

HISTORIAN
JIM LONG, MMR
2404 Creek Ridge
Pearland, Texas 77581-5728
(281) 482-4987
(no email)

WEB SITE
CHRIS ATKINS
1633 Parkside Trail
Lewisville, Texas 75077
(214) 222-1285
chris@railroadermodelers.com

EDUCATIONAL CHAIR
TRACY MITCHELL, MMR
12018 Troulon
Houston, Texas 77072-4032
(281) 495-1669
E-mail: traymit@comcast.net

NON-RAIL
VIRGINIA FREITAG
1835 Alta Vista
Houston, Texas 77023-2503
(713) 926-2993
v-gfreitag@comcast.net

CONTEST
DUANE RICHARDSON, MMR
1122 Holland Drive
Garland, Texas 75040
(972) 495-6375
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

DISPATCHER
MATTHEW LATHAM
2320 Hickory Leaf Lane
Flower Mound, Texas 75022-4945
(972) 358-6168
wnrailway@yahoo.com

NOMINATIONS
STEVE BARKLEY
2060 Belvedere Drive
Beaumont, Texas 77706
(210) 653-5947
baylormax@aol.com

PHOTOGRAPHY CHAIR
DAVE LAMBERTS
3717 95th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79423-3811
(806) 792-7244
DavidWL1944@aol.com

YOUTH/PARLIAMENTARIAN
BOB MANGRUM, PHD
112 Broken Arrow St.
Early, Texas 76802-2531
(325) 643-1219
rmangrum@hputx.edu

President's Message

by Bill McPherson

"The circus is coming to town!" used to get the kids all excited. Now, after the World Greatest Hobby Show in Fort Worth on January 5-6, the kids AND ADULTS are shouting, *"the trains are coming to town!"*

From the over 29,000 attendees at the show, many of the adults again became kids at heart as they viewed the latest railroading equipment from Athearn, Lionel, Mike's Train House and numerous other manufacturers or importers along with dozens of vendors. Thomas the Train was again a big draw with dozens standing in long lines to ride Thomas on the large indoor track. The LSR was well represented by the numerous modular layouts in a variety of scales. With such a wondrous attraction of trains to the youngsters and the adults, the future or our hobby would seem to be secure. However, let's not be too smug about that. Thousands may attend a train show, but the continuing challenge for us is to encourage and develop their interests into long-time fascinations and enjoyments of model railroading.

I commented to many visitors at our very eye-catching NMRA booth at the Fort Worth show that the NMRA rose to prominence 70 years ago by coordinating the development of standards in the designing and manufacturing of model train equipment so that most items would work together. Nowadays however, as I explained to the visitors, our role as NMRA members is to help people on a more personal basis by answering their questions, telling them about techniques and equipment, or assisting them on just about any other topic they can think of.

I was a little surprised at how elementary some of their questions were (such as how do you make rocks), especially since so many books, magazines, videos, and internet sites are available. Thus, one of our primary objectives is to bring all of our knowledge together to give answers to their questions and concerns or point out information sources. In the NMRA booth we had many members of both Division 1 and 3 who provided expert advice on such things as DCC, decoders, and other electronics; gave demonstrations on basic scenery and tree building, and offered suggestions about retail products and many other things. In other words, tell me what you want to know about modeling railroad, and I will get you an answer.

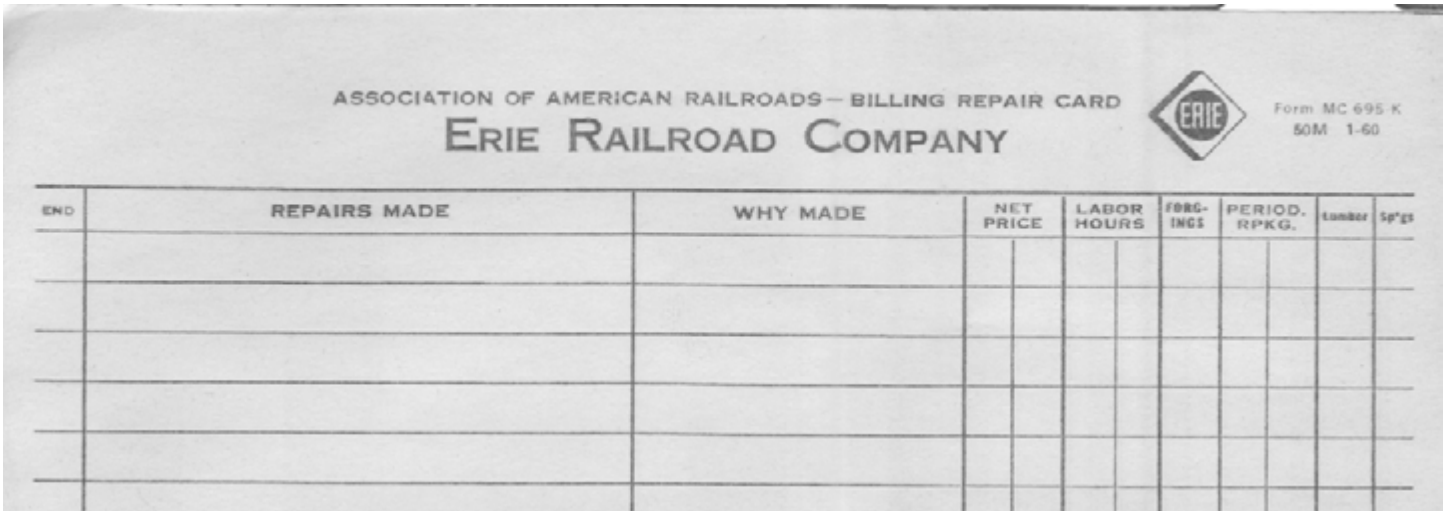
We must have been doing something right because our LSR team at the show signed up 52 new NMRA members which certainly is a new high for the LSR. Then at our monthly Division 3 meeting on January 12, we had a record attendance of 70 men, women, and kids eager for knowledge and fellowship. Several came from over 200 miles for the meeting. Wow! With an outstanding meeting program and clinics that were geared to these new people, I feel the divisions aptly demonstrated how they can enrich their experiences in model railroading through the LSR/NMRA. Eagerly we are looking forward to the North Texas Regional Train Show in Plano on January 19-20 to provide many more opportunities to meet new enthusiasts and immerse them in the fasciation of railroading.

This is our first all-on-the-website edition of *The Marker Lamp*. We want to bedazzle the Lone Star Region members and the rest of the world with articles and features with the colors, zooms, zizles, fireworks and all of the other techniques provided by electronic publications to draw attention to our interesting articles not only about the LSR but about railroading in general. So much more can now be done with computer publications that never could be done with a printed *The Marker Lamp*.

I know many of you will have mixed emotions about not having a hard copy. However, this electronic format really has some great advantages. It is the quickest way to get important and/or lengthy information to you. With full-color capabilities, articles can utilize colored diagrams and pictures to show details which just do not show up in black and white. Our new editor, Riley Triggs, certainly will be delighted with the increased flexibility. Errors that were not noticed even after careful proof-reading can be corrected and reposted quickly compared to the correction coming out in print 3 months later. Finally, it is saving the LSR thousands of dollars each year in printing and mailing expenses that were causing us to quickly reach our own fiscal cliff. Thus, the change will be beneficial in so many ways.

Our new web-masters, Chris Atkins and Jeff Palmer, are investigating new programs and techniques to make the website more impressive. This will be a work-in-progress. Please give us your suggestions and ideas on how to improve our organization and its communications.

Finally, take a look at the excellent information about our upcoming Lone Star Express convention in the Dallas and Fort Worth Metroplex from May 29 to June 2. ***It will be amazing.***



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS — BILLING REPAIR CARD

ERIE RAILROAD COMPANY

Form MC 695 K
50M 1-60

END	REPAIRS MADE	WHY MADE	NET PRICE		LABOR HOURS		FORG-INGS	PERIOD. RPKG.		Lumber	Sp'gs

Billing repair card from Erie Railroad's Salamanca shops. In collection of the author

Howdy!

By Riley Triggs

Greetings from the cloud - the new home for your fifty-nine volume strong publication, the LSR *Marker Lamp.*

The *ML* is now a digital publication and will no longer come to your door as a printed object. This is a big change for a publication and, more importantly, the members that have enjoyed the quarterly anticipating, receiving and reading of a physical newsletter via snail mail.

Our situation is not an isolated event as many publications around the world adjust their means of production to more appropriately match resources, processes and distribution opportunities our contemporary economy and society provide. At this point in time, this means you and I will be sharing our news through a more economical, direct and hopefully very accessible form to most of you.

This may be an unwelcome change to some, and I have been tasked by the LSR officers and directors to turn this situation into an opportunity to provide a more robust and enjoyable experience as the *ML* adapts to its new digital format. The way it adapts, though, is going to be dependent on you.

As you can see, the look and feel of this issue of the *ML* is as close to the printed format as I could technically manage (with the exception of added color and some click-able web links in blue rectangles). The plan is to take what members tell me about how you would like the *ML* to be in this new and potentially exciting digital domain and craft a publication that is appropriate for the new medium.

Towards this end, I ask you for your input on any subject having to do with distribution, look and feel, features, performance, or anything that you feel is important to put on the table. These can be positive or negative comments: desires, fears, hopes, current likes and dislikes - you name it because I want to hear it.

To start with, the best way to express your feelings is to email me at rileytriggs@gmail.com (<--- click the blue box to email me) or simply bend my ear at a train show or meeting. Later on, as I get a sense of how members want the *ML* to be, I will be asking for more specific information and ideas from you. This means that changes are not going to happen overnight.

My hope is to hear from many of you in the coming several months and then to begin to craft a vision for adapting to our new virtual environment. This will be followed by opportunities for more input, feedback, and research and development before any implementation takes place.

Along the way, we may tweak the current offering to address pressing or easily accomplished items as we did in this issue by providing web links inside articles, but don't look for any fireworks or earth-shaking changes during this period of re-creation.

In the meantime, you can assume that I am always in need of more material. I welcome submissions of anything from short tid-bits of information, how-tos, etc. as well as longer, full length articles on your activities in modeling, activities, fellowship, etc. If words aren't your thing, send in drawings, photographs or links to a video of anything that is going on where you are. The idea is to share and inspire others to get as much enjoyment out of the Lone Star Region's events, friendships and model railroading in general as you are having.

As I begin this endeavor, I want to thank our most recent editor Chuck Lind and all of the current and previous members who have contributed to the incredible legacy of the *Marker Lamp* over these many years for their efforts. I very much appreciate the opportunity from the officers and directors to continue to add to this strong tradition of creating connections between our members and compiling a lasting record of our LSR's activities. Together we will learn some things, get to know each other better, and most importantly, have fun doing it.

Riley

LONE STAR EXPRESS

2013 Lone Star Regional Convention
Dallas/Fort Worth May 29th-June 2nd
http://lonestarexpress2013.com

Your 2013 Convention Committee has been working diligently to deliver some great new places for you to visit during the 62nd Annual NMRA LSR Convention, "The Lone Star Express"to be held May 29 - June 2 in Dallas/ Fort Worth. One tour site has already been confirmed, with several other new locations still yet to be finalized.

As you can imagine these days, Homeland Security concerns as well as premise liability considerations are major barriers to having tour groups visit major transportation sites. But with our man Larry Swigert hard at work, we just might have some prototype tour visits available for you that have never been open before ! Check back often for updates and some exciting news regarding these fantastic prototype tours.

Meanwhile, here is a little sneak peak at what is awaiting you when you arrive on Thursday..…

Prototype Tour #1: Museum of the American Railroad

On Thursday afternoon, the "Museum of the American Railroad" will be your host for personal tours of one of the most complete collections of railroad equipment, artifacts, and archival material in the country.

In his presentation at the 2009 NMRA LSR Convention four years ago, Museum President and CEO, Bob LaPrelle broke the news to us of the move and major expansion of the museum from its 1.8-acre home on the grounds of Fair Park in Dallas to a new 12.5-acre site near the Frisco Heritage Museum. Your visit on Thursday will give you a chance to see the beginnings of this great new facility and will include small, personalized group tours, hosted for you by volunteers from the Museum.

Please note: We expect the Museum grounds to still be very much a work in progress during your visit. You should arrive for this magnificent hands-on, up-close tour with closed toe comfortable walking shoes for traversing unleveled terrain and be dressed for the outdoors with appropriate protection such as hats and sun screen.

This Frisco Opening Day treat will be something totally new to LSR Conventions. You sure don't want to miss this!

Prototype Tour #2: BNSF Operations Center

And if you ever wondered just how they operate a major railroad, join us as the BNSF opens up their Corporate Headquarters for this next tour.

For starts, we will see four immaculately restored vintage BNSF business cars, the BNSF historical museum, and their incredible art gallery.

Then, the" big show"…. The Network Operations Center, where we are ushered behind the scene and get to watch as BNSF dispatches nearly the entire railroad from one, football field size room in the Corporate Headquarters! A truly AMAZING sight!

Prototype Tour #3: Union Pacific Hump Yard

Those who act FAST will have the rare opportunity to visit the Union Pacific's Fort Worth Hump Yard and Diesel Facility! This will be one of the most talked about tours at the 2013 Lone Star Express! Attendees must wear long pants; hard rubber soled shoes (steel toe preferable) and must strictly adhere to UP Safety rules for this visit. There will be no "wandering around" just to get that photo that you've always wanted. We have committed to our UP hosts that our group is knowledgeable of the safety hazards that go with a commercial rail operation and further that we all understand that any deviation from UP Safety rules will cause the tour to be stopped immediately.

In order to comply with UP Safety considerations, this tour will be limited to the first 24 folks to register. There will be no standby list for this tour, so register now!

Keep checking back for progress on what could be the highlights of your 62nd Annual NMRA LSR Convention, "The 2013 Lone Star Express."

See ya'll soon! You're gonna' have fun!

LONE STAR REGION NMRA
LONE STAR EXPRESS 2013
MAY 29-JUNE 2, 2013

WWW.LONESTAREXPRESS2013.COM
*Mail Registration by May 18 or Register Online using **PayPal***
See Instructions at bottom of Page 2

NAME: As Shown on NMRA Membership Card:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email Address:
Print Clearly Please:

Home Phone: Cell Phone:

NMRA Member No.: NMRA Exp Date (mm/dd/yy):

Home Division: Home Region (if not LSR):

NOTE: All registration fees increase by $10 after April 15

A. PRIMARY REGISTRANT Named above and current NMRA Member $79 prior to April 15, 2013. (See page 2 for NMRA membership registration fees if not a current NMRA member)

Name for badge _____

B. ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE/CHILD $59 when submitted with Primary Registrant paperwork by April 15, 2013

Name for badge _____

Name for badge _____

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel
4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway
Irving, Texas 75063-2927
Tel: 1-972-929-8400 or 1-800-345-5251

Ask for the 2013 Lone Star Region Convention rate

The convention rate is $96.00 per night for1 King, or 2 Double bed occupancy. Make your reservations directly by phone with the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel (between 8am-5pm M-F if possible). ***NOTE: The convention rate is available between May 26 and June 4 only if booked no later than 5pm CST, May 15, 2013.***

REGISTRATION INCLUDES

- ⊗ ***Includes** Saturday evening Awards Banquet and Sunday morning Breakfast*
- ⊗ ***Learn** from the best modelers in the area with **52 clinics** from which to choose*
- ⊗ ***View and photograph** some of the best model building from the Lone Star Region in the Contest Room*
- ⊗ ***NEW! Practice operating your layout** in the Convention Layout Room*
- ⊗ ***Hear guest speaker**, **Allen C. Harper**, Chairman and CEO of American Heritage Railways, during the Saturday evening Awards Banquet*
- ⊗ ***Choose** from among six different Operating Sessions*
- ⊗ ***Plenty of Non Rail Activities:** Tours, contests, clinics and fellowship*

Lone Star 2013 Convention Fee Schedule (rev 21513)

REGULAR REGISTRATION	COST	QTY	Total
Postmarked on or before April 15, 2013	$79		$
Postmarked after April 15, 2013	$89		$
ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE/CHILD REGISTRATION (*CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE*)			
Postmarked on or before April 15, 2013	$59		$
Postmarked after April 15, 2013	$69		$
EXTRA FARE			
Prototype Tour #1 **Museum of the American Railroad** (*drive yourself*)	$10		$
Prototype Tour #2- **BNSF** Headquarters-Fort Worth	$20		$
Prototype Tour #3-**Union Pacific** Hump Yard-Fort Worth	$35		$
Leave the Driving to Us Layout "Super Tour-Dallas"	$30		$
Leave the Driving to Us Layout "Super Tour-Fort Worth"	$30		$
Make and Take Clinic-Laser Cut Structures-(circle scale) N HO S O	$25		$
Make and Take Clinic-Fast Tracks Jig	$20		$
*Commemorative Decal Set (circle scale) N HO S O	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Wed Evening (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Thurs morning (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Thurs evening (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Fri morning (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Fri evening (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Operating Session Deposit Sat morning (Refunded at Op Session)	$10		$
Additional Tickets-Saturday Evening Banquet *(Children under 6 must have a ticket to attend the banquet)*	$35		$
Additional Tickets-Sunday Morning Breakfast *(Children under 6 must have a ticket to attend the breakfast)*	$20		$
Circle Choice for Banquet Meal. Provide count if more than one registrant using this form: *Beef Stroganoff (Number?)* *Chicken Chardonnay (Number?)* *Italian Stuffed Pork Loin (Number?)*			
*Unisex Convention Polo Shirt-**Red** (circle size) S M L XL XXL	$30		$
*Men's/Women's Button Down -**Red** (circle sex/size) S M L XL XXL	$30		$
* Black Ball Cap with Convention logo	$10		$
**Decal sets and shirts must be pre-ordered by April 15th*			
NON-RAIL TOURS			
Ft. Worth Botanical Garden-includes Admission- (Lunch on your own)	$25		$
Delaney Vineyard-wine tasting & cheese tray	$36		$
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS, ETC			
One Year NMRA/LSR Membership with NMRA Magazine	$66		$
NMRA Rail Pass- 6 Month Trial Membership with NMRA Magazine	$9.95		$
**Facility Usage if not staying at the hotel (see below)	$25		$
Grand Total			$

**Note: The $25 facilities Usage Charge (primary registration only) applies to those who do not stay at their own home or at the convention hotel. The cost of the hotel's meeting rooms, banquet, and other facilities is offset by the attendees (locals as well as out-of-towners) purchasing the guaranteed number of hotel room nights. If this guaranteed number is not met, the use of the facilities will significantly increase the cost of the convention. Since every attendee benefits from the use of the hotel facilities, we encourage everyone to stay at the convention hotel.

Primary Registrant Name:

Make check payable to "**Lone Star Region NMRA** "
Mail completed form and payment no later than May 18th to:
Chris Atkins, Registrar
1633 Parkside Trail, Lewisville, TX 75077
469-438-0741
chris@railroadmodelers.com ***Or go to*** www.lonestarexpress2013.com and register using ***PayPal***

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me, or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net. Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Lone Star Region 62nd Annual Convention (2013)
The Lone Star Region NMRA 62nd Annual Convention will be held in Irving, May 29–June 2, 2013.
Check the LSR website http://www.lonestarregion.com/convention.shtml Come all!! PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division - Garland
Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX. Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson at jhoverson@tx.rr.com or check the Division 3 Page on the LSR website

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers
HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs - Irving
The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the third Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site or member clubs.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

March 2nd – 3rd **Longview Model Train Show**
Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, 12 & under Free. Fairgrounds Exhibition Building, Hwy 31 and Jaycee Dr., Longview, TX. For more information: Bill Pyle (903) 522-1281

April 6th – 7th **26th Annual New Braunfels Train Show**
Sat. 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7 (18 – up), Children $2 (2 – 17). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels, TX. For more information call Jim Edmondson (830) 629-2071 or JEdmondson@satx.rr.com.

May 18 – 19th **Second Annual Jefferson Train Days** 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Saturday, May 18, 2013, and 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sunday, May 19, 2013 Jefferson Historical Society & Museum, 223 West Austin Street, Jefferson, Texas 75657 www.jeffersonmuseum.com 903-665-2775

The Jefferson Historical Society & Museum will celebrate the one year anniversary of constructing a replica early 1900's T & P Railroad depot on the Museum property to house the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad. Construction of the depot building began in late January 2012 and was completed in early May 2012.

The late R.D. Moses and his late friend, Jack Luck, spent over 30 years creating and building this fabulous HO scale model railroad layout that depicted the Texas & Pacific Railway in West Texas in the 1950s. This superb model railroad was published in the May 2002 *Model Railroader* magazine. Even before this publication, the R.D. Moses model railroad was known both locally and nationally as one of the best in the hobby.

The second annual Jefferson Train Days event will occur on May 18 and 19, 2013 to commemorate the one year anniversary of the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout being in its new location in Jefferson. This year's event will also celebrate the city of Jefferson being designated by the Union Pacific Railroad as a "Train Town USA" and inclusion in the Union Pacific Railroad's Train Town USA Registry.

One Boarding Pass will admit visitors to four activities – a visit to the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad layout, a ride on a narrow gauge scenic train, a tour of Jay Gould's private railroad car and admission to a train show that includes several modular model railroad layouts and vendors.

Cost of the Boarding Pass is $15.00 for adults; children 12 and under are free. Boarding Passes may be purchased at two event locations in Jefferson on the days of the event. All proceeds, after expenses, will benefit the Jefferson Historical Society & Museum and the R.D. Moses T & P Model Railroad.

Go to www.jeffersonrailway.com, click on "Jefferson Train Days," and go to www.visitjeffersontexas.com for information on lodging and other activities in Jefferson, Texas.

Hooters Operations Weekend: A Real Hoot!

Text and photos by Arthur Houston

A busy yard crew on Bill Wright's layout.

The HOOTERS (Houston Operators of Tiny Electric Railway Sysytems) group held an operations weekend at 16 area model railroads. This event took place the first weekend of November 2012, and it started with everyone's meeting at the host hotel and getting their assignments for the weekend and discussing the latest status of the world on model railroading.

The event coordinator, **Norman Beveridge**, was on hand to lead the group in the right direction. The Friday evening events started at 7:00 PM and ended at 10:00 PM. There were four layouts that operated on Friday evening. They were **Peter Bryan's** WVW, **Al Partlow's** TNO, **Dave Shafer's** CRR, and **Randall Wilson's** SP Rabbit Line.

On Saturday, after a continental breakfast at the host hotel, we again split up for the morning sessions that started at 8:00 AM and ended at approximately 11:00 AM. The morning session included, All Points North Model RR Club's layout, **Gordon Bliss'** ATSF N Scale layout, **Steve Sandifer's** ATSF Howard layout, and **David Ray's** "O" 2 Rail SP Layout.

We were then given a three hour break to eat lunch and drive to our afternoon layouts. It was part of a well planned weekend that had no one rushing to get to different points in the Houston Metroplex.

The Saturday afternoon sessions started at 2:00 PM and ended at 5:00 PM and included **Bill Wright's** GBS, **Gil Freitag's** SCW, and **Tom Bailey's** Great Plains District of the ATSF.

A long freight drags snakes through a canyon Gordon Bliss's ATSF layout.

Breaking bread (and corn) with the group at lunch.

Moving freight on Jim Thompson's layout

A special thanks goes out to **Virginia Freitag** for opening up the SCW to visitors and operators. Gil was there and watched with great enjoyment.

The guests and owners then met at the Valley Ranch Grill and BBQ. Always good to sit around a table with a group of great model railroad people and break bread and talk about trains. The BBQ was very good and servings were large. Many of the local owners were accompanied by their wives which is always nice.

We returned to the hotel by 9:00, and I had time to watch the Tigers lose to Alabama in the last minute by three points. Well, there is always next year. I think some of my Texas U friends understand.

On Sunday, the day began with another continental breakfast and checking out of the hotel. We then made our way to our assigned layout for Sunday morning. Operating on Sunday starting at 8:30 AM and ending around 11:30 AM were **Jim Thompson's** CVR, **Mike Spoor's** Chicago & Aurora, **Ed Rains'** SSW, and **Don Bozman's** GGN.

One of the key elements that answered many questions as to what, when, where, how many, etc was the HOOTER web site that was put together by Jim Thompson. This is a great help to telling the story and answering questions. It had each layout with its own page with all of the necessary details and pictures. The site also included all of the necessary general information. Thanks to Jim for a great job.

Hillside Lumber saw a lot of action passing through town on Jim Thompson's layout.

The crew pauses for a station stop with an Amtrak train on Randell Wilson's layout.

It was a great weekend of train operations and, like many, I picked up on a few tricks I did not know and some better ways to do things. A personal comment about getting out and going to other layouts in other places to run trains, it is one of the best ways I know to learn all of the great ideas, concepts, and construction of some of the greatest model railroads in the world. I retired Feb 2008 and have been blessed to have visited more than 70 layouts and operated on all. This activity had a great influence on the building, track plan, and seam of operations for the Grande Pacific Model RR.
www.grandepacificmodelrr.org

These links will take you to videos of the four layouts that I operated on:
Gordon Bliss
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWiUKQNH8u4
Jim Thompson
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oke5ea869FY
Bill Wright
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXceesLvyjw
Randell Wilson
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cL1ynVfA5SQ

There are operating layouts throughout the LSR and many are open to new operators to teach you how to get more out of your layout and trains.

Double-headed action on Jim Thompson's layout.

You Should Have Seen the One that Got Away!

Text and photo by Bob Barnett

We are all familiar with the common attachment to a good Texas fishing tale that "you should have seen the one that got away." To all those who attended the Evening in the Park, barbeque picnic at the 2012 Gulf Coast Limited and returned to the hotel soaked, I give you, "you should be here when it REALLY RAINS in Houston."

The photo was taken after the July 13th flood about a month after the convention. Yes that was Friday the 13th. While we did get about 3 inches of rain during the picnic, Zube Park and the HALS track got about 14 inches of rain over a 24-hour period the next month. The water was so high that no one could get to the park to take a "during the flood" photo.

HALS had their monthly public run day the next weekend, and unbelievably, the main line was restored for use by the scheduled run day. The second main line was restored over the next two months and all track back in service by the annual fall meet. So, the next time you are trying to fix that pesky turnout or curve that is causing derailments - it could be worse.

Happy Railroading!

[You can visit the HALS web site for information on schedules, special events, videos and membership information. -ed.]

ELF Stories '12

By Don Kimmell

Who would believe that this would be the 12th Edition of the Kansas City Southern's Holiday Express! Back during the summer of 2000, painting the various caricatures, with "donated" paint, in a steel building (no A/C), that it would last this long, or even how it would be bigger that we ever thought! Boy, how time flies when you are having fun!

Well, anyway, this year was going to a be a "short" run, only 22 cities in 24 days - even ending a week prior to Christmas! The plan was to do a "southern" east/west leg, then head north to finish in Kansas City. As usual, the Head Elf promised that the weather would be great, no need to bring the "winter stuff", boy, have we heard that story before!

Us few "maintainer elves" really did not have too much work to do this year…. no major additions, just add some more cars, trucks, people, trees, dogs, cats and some trash cans. Or at least we thought so…. first time we powered up the layouts, the number of lights burned out was staggering… like the majority of them! Then I asked the question…"is everything plugged in?" As it turned out, some "helpful elf"- who thought they knew what they were doing unplugged all the power-strips, transformers and anything/everything else! So it wasn't nearly as serious as first contemplated! Only an even dozen needed replacement. Of course, that meant a couple of hours under the layout on a creeper—the two "big" layouts are built on a platform of 2x4 studs, with the "top" 24" above the floor…so, the only elves who can work underneath, are named Warren and Don. I once measured the underside clearance; it is 19" from the floor (the actual, original flooring from 1952, when the boxcar was built). Bit rough, slightly dirty and really dusty, is a great description of the conditions, but what we will do for a train ride! It only took bout 4 hours over two Saturday mornings to "re-light" the layouts.

Then, we had to test run all the locos, or what we hoped would be all of the power we have. You know, running a locomotive for 5 to 6 hours a night, for 24 to 28 days, does tend to wear them out! We had a set of "F units", only two years old, that refused to run at all, they were shipped off to the builder for TLC, they didn't arrive in time for this years run, as did a GP-35, who had lost a motor. Then the "old lady" 4-8-2, kind of wore her tires out, she was ONLY tem years old! But, Santa did come thru with a new 4-6-2, so that did help! I guess, model train-wise, we are ready to go.

Of course, the weekend before Thanksgiving a couple more things did pop up…like, "…why isn't the HO train running?"

"Did you check out the LGB layout on the sleigh car?"

It's a white Christmas!

The answer was "not my job" to which the Head Elf replied, "…it is now." Lucky for us just dirty track was the main issue. Dodged another bullet.

Well, the day before Thanksgiving we were back to stuffing bags, wouldn't have any time Friday prior to the Jefferson, Texas stop to do any, so the 4 of us local elves, plus 4 of the "railroad elves" loaded about 1200+ bags. Are we having fun yet? This was the first of many bag-stuffing shifts this year. Once you filled the boxes of bags up, they then had to be moved to the Green Caboose to get ready for distribution. Are having fun yet? What we will do for a train ride! Of course after all this hard work, the railroad did feed us lunch, BBQ shrimp, ham/pineapple/goat cheese flat-bread, home-made mac & cheese, plus a nice assortments of deserts. The reason for such a "nice" feed, was these were "left-over's" from the Board of Directors special the prior week. I did not complain.

This year we started the run in Jefferson, Texas on Friday 23 November. They (the head elf/railroad) wanted everybody on board the day before Thanksgiving-unless you were a "special" elf…Me! Got to stay home on Thanksgiving, and board the train by 9am on Friday, with us leaving at 10am. Saying we were leaving at 10am is stretching things a bit, because they had to couple the train together. So we did start moving by 10:15am, but didn't leave the yards till bout noon. We arrived in the quaint town of Jefferson bout 1pm, so we watch the folks, who were watching us, as we had our lunch. The scheduled start time was 4pm, but we never start then, Head Elf wanted to start as close to 3pm as possible, so we did! By starting early, the line didn't develop till 4:30, but by five it was around the corner, and then some! Another bit of info, we were blocking the Main, so, I am sure the Dispatchers in KC were not too happy with us that evening-we ended up blocking the main till bout 8pm. Good crowd, they came from as far away as Tyler, Henderson and Center, I guess we are a draw. Now the good thing bout starting early, is you finish early, so you get to eat before 9pm…..most of the time. Off to Greenville.

When the sun came up the next morning-temp 24-we were sitting in the middle of an old yard, somewhere in Northeast Texas. I had no idea where, turns out, it was the "old intermodal" yard just west of Greenville. Did our "usual" morning routine, breakfast, stuff bags, clean cars, repair trains, (BBCR), the same would be repeated for the next 23 days, unless we were moving. This was the first time we have ever visited Greenville, had no idea what to expect, but if history repeated itself, we would see a huge crowd! It did! We set up under the main street viaduct leading into downtown, again blocking the main. We could see the county jail, so we figured we were safe, yea, right! Again, we started by 3:30, and by 4:30 the line went up the hill, past the jail, then turned the corner, bout an hour plus wait. One of the

Sheriff Deputies asked me …"is it always like this?" To which I replied, "yes". It seems the city didn't expect so many folks, thought two officers could handle it, well the Sheriff sent us 4 more to help. It was fun! Finished by 8:30pm, then off to Wylie yard. Wow, two nights in a row, supper was prior to 9pm! We could get spoiled!

Next morning woke to 24 degrees, clear and no idea where in Wylie yard we were. Ended up we were on the west #2 main lead, with nothing around us, we could see some roofs in the distance to the north, but noting else. Usual start to the day, BBCR, then we would be moving, got to refill the various tanks, water and diesel fuel, so everyone needed to be back on board by 10:30am, as our crew was called to 10am. As someone once remarked to me, "…its' the railroad, wait a quarter, things will change." Consequently, it was closer to 11am before we started backing toward the water/fuel station, but we were going to be lucky, they had 3 water hoses, so 3 cars at a time could get watered…still takes a while to fill a 2500 gallon tank! I had asked a friend if he and his wife would like to have lunch on the train, kind of a payback for past favors. First they had to find Wylie yard, never having

Elves from left to right are KSCHS members Warren Caileff, Don Kimmel and John Singelton.

driven there, I was no help, but our MOP (modern day Trainmaster) gave Tom directions, which got him there, course then we had to "sneak" them on board, I did have permission, but we were NOT "blue flagged", I was told," just drop a trap, and get'em on, and hope the FRA ain't around!" and "… oh, by they way, you do know we are going to "Y" the train, so a short ride is in store for them." Well, I got them on, gave a brief tour, and then it was lunchtime, on the move no less! I thought they would "Y" the train there in Wylie, but we are a bit long-1700'! So, Tom and Gloria got a tour of North Dallas, Garland, Plano and who knows where else, I was lost, but the view from the dome was interesting, I had never seen that part of the MetroPlex rail system during the day, at night sure, but daylight was whole new experience! We did cause a few motorists to stop and take a second look, it wasn't the

A great crowd as we roll into a private siding in Pittsburg, TX.

"usual train" going by, and of course we were all waving at everyone. It ended up they had a 2-½ hour ride! Then, the railroad Police gave them a ride back to the yard, where their car was, seeing as we were setting up in Wylie it self. Another 3pm start, another record crowd. I really hate to say it, but sometimes the places are a blur, they do get to seem to be all the same, "if this is Sunday, then we MUST be in Wylie." But tonight we were not going to make the Dispatchers mad, we didn't block the main. The one thing I do remember from that show, is a T-shirt a father was wearing…he was herding his 4 daughters-age 5 thru 12-on the train; the shirt had "DADD" on it…"Dads Against Daughters Dating." WE loved it! Another early evening, we were finished by 8:30pm, and only had a sort trip back to the yard in Wylie. Wow, a whole night without any movement! Different.

Another 24-degree morning, followed by the usual routine, but we were leaving for Pittsburg by 11am, or so we were told, have we heard that story before? Surprise! We did. A daylight run to Pittsburg, in the sun no less, fun! This would be the first time ever that we have brought the Holiday Express to Pittsburg, and there were some concerns, not so much about the expected crowd, but where they wanted to park us. The siding they wanted us on was a "privately owned"(think chicken) one, which had only 90# rail. The

A typical night "on the line."

concern was for the "Belle", that is awfully light rail for 190,000 lbs car-like 6 cars worth. The railroad MOW Department and Engineering Department had inspected the sidings, and thought it would be OK, but left it up to the Head Elf. To say that he was very concerned is an understatement. What ended up happening was they pushed the Holiday Express into the siding, and left the Belle on the main, again. Dispatchers were not happy, again!

As what was becoming "normal", we started shortly after 3pm, of course, not too many folks then, but by 3:30 the word was out…the line was out of sight, and stayed that way till 7pm! The wonderful folks of Pittsburg were very grateful that "The Railroad" finally brought the Holiday Express to town. We heard more than once, "most excitement we have had around here in months!" And families, 3 and 4 children per, with Grandma, Granddad, plus a few Aunts and Uncles, and throw in a few cousins! A couple of families had driven from Tyler and Longview to see the train! We did get to meet the Mayor, Chief of Police and the County Sheriff, I think we could have held up a bank that evening, and gotten away with it! Finished by 8:30, so another early evening. Next stop was Ruston, LA.

Having blocked the Main for another 6 hour window, they were in a hurry to get us moving, we had two "pig" trains east-bound behind us, plus one west-bound…"move it or get out of the way." We did. It was planned to spend the night in Deramius Yard here in Shreveport, and then leave at 1pm the next day for Ruston. Got to the yard by 11pm, and I had to get off to go back to the "real" world-work. I would reboard when they returned for the Mississippi leg a week later. During the 4 stops in Northeast Texas, we had almost 11,000 visitors, to say we were a hit, is a bit of an understatement!

A week later I was back doing my job, Up Elf. Did it for another week in the cold, such places as Ashdown, DeQueen, Mena Arkansas, Heavener, Stillwell, OK. And Noel, Joplin MO. At each and every stop the Christmas sprit was strong, the "locals" appreciative, and the Salvation Army grateful. It is what makes this elf job so much fun.

Again, the real world called, so back to reality. The trip home was a whole story in itself, but that is best told in person!

This year's Holiday Express, 2012 edition, had 66,200 visitors, donated over $100,00.00 to the Salvation Army, and brought joy to many more.

Would I do it again, *YES!*

In fact, we are already planning some "improvement" for the 2013 edition…wait and see.

Secretary's Report

For Second Fiscal Quarter of 2012/2013

by Tom Browning, MMR

At the beginning of August 2012 the membership was 1,036 and at the end of October 2012 the membership was 1,050. Please welcome our new members listed by division below:

September 2012
Ray Brown, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Robert Wartburg, Arlington, TX - 1
Ronald Wartburg, Arlington, TX - 1
Jeff Guidry, Raceland, LA - 2
Byron Davey, Royce City, TX -3
Roderick Irving, Plano, TX - 3
Gene Shukis, Celina, TX - 3
Robert Adkins, Waco, TX - 4
David Bender, Killeen, TX - 4
Dan Dickerson, Temple, TX - 4
Ed Kollman, Taylor, TX - 4
Allen Mikulski, Ft. Hood, TX - 4
Fred Price, Little River Academy, TX - 4
Phil Reyna, Eddy, TX - 4
Charles Ward, Austin, TX -4
William Bowen, San Antonio, TX - 6
Mark Munoz, San Antonio, TX - 6
Howard Young, Cibolo, TX - 6
Carl Saffer, Katy, TX - 8

October 2012
Jim Ankele, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Jacklyn Cucinotta, Flower Mound, TX - 1
Marilyn Gondol, Holly Lake Ranch, TX - 3
Gus Gates, Temple, TX - 4
Howard Laker, Houston, TX - 8

November 2012
Cynthia Martin, Alvarado, TX - 1
David Smith, Granbury, TX - 1
Earl Gottschalk, Austin, TX - 4
Steve Jackobs, Austin, TX - 4
David Peterson, Austin, TX - 4
Scott Vogel, Austin, TX - 4
John Worshaun, San Antonio, TX - 6

December 2012
Jacob Howell, Brownwood, TX - 1
Robert Lovinelli, Collyville, TX - 1
Mike MacKey, Fort Worth, TX - 1
Harry Mayes, River Oaks, TX - 1
Kevin Olsen, Granbury, TX - 1
Arvind Kumar, Plano, TX - 3
Melvin Sanders, West Tawakoni, TX - 3
Ray Cleven, Kempner, TX - 4
Michael Generall, Round Rock, TX - 4
Lennard Stewart, Gilmer, TX - 7
Michael Connolly, Houston, TX -8
James Kirby, Katy, TX - 8

Treasurer's Report

For Second Fiscal Quarter of 2012/2013

by Tom Browning, MMR

Beginning Balance 08/01/2012		
LSR Checking Account		$95.73
Vanguard CD Fund		$21,268.86
Vanguard Convention Fund		$10,000.68
Acct receivable for 2013 Convention		$1,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$32,365.27
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1	$3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3	$1,566.89	
Funds Held For Division 4	$3,754.29	
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	$400.00*	
LSR Proceeds		
Vanguard CD Fund Interest		$2.06
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest		$1.03
Pike Ads		$16.00
NMRA Region Rebate		$933.00
Total Proceeds		$952.09
LSR Disbursements		
Marker Lamp Printing and Postage		$1,381.50
BOD Copying		$152.05
Total Disbursements		$1,533.55
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements		<$581.46>
Ending Balance 10/31/2012		
LSR Checking Accounts Total		$911.18
Vanguard CD Fund		$19,870.92
Vanguard Convention Fund		$10,001.71
Acct receivable for 2013 Convention		$1,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$31,783.81
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1	$3,400.50	
Funds Held For Division 3	$1,356.91	
Funds Held For Division 4	$3,754.29	
Funds Held For Zahn Donation	$400.00*	

* These funds are restricted and will become unrestricted at $200.00 per year to comply with terms of donation.

News

Fred Holland

By Carl Lester, MMR

On Wednesday December 19, 2012 Fred Holland, a good friend and a outstanding model railroader, took his last ride on his beloved HO Scale Quanah Acme & Pacific railroad. Fred was 87 years young, a WII veteran of the Pacific Conflict, and a retired cash register sales and repair business owner.

Fred was born in North Texas and grew up in the QA&P territory. His model railroad reflected what he saw as a youngster and how the railroad developed during his lifetime.

Fred modeled the QA&P from the 1940 WWII era through the late 1960s until the QA&P was absorbed by the larger railroads of the day. He built his model railroad in the attic of his home; it was hot in the summer and cold in the winter, but what awaited the visitor after the climb up the stairs to view Fred's QA&P was well worth it.

Fred and his QA&P will be missed.

Directors' Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins
chris@railroadermodelers.com
214.222.1285
cowcatcherdivision.com

Hi gang, welcome to the first online Cowcatcher Division *Marker Lamp* report. Hopefully you all have found the *ML* as an Adobe Acrobat document. I see this as an interim solution and the future of the *ML* remains very bright, especially with the new editor Riley Triggs. I'm sure Riley has introduced himself elsewhere in this issue, so please welcome as our new editor and personally thank him for stepping up.

I'm grateful that Riley has taken over the *Marker Lamp*, but also sad to see **Chuck Lind** step down. Chuck was a very forgiving editor and on more than one occasion gave me a gentle email nudge when the deadline for this report had come and gone. I was always impressed with his ability to fill up the magazine every quarter, second only to my awe of Chuck's modeling. I'm glad to know that Chuck will still be around the LSR, and now that he has all this extra free time, I'm sure his new layout will be the benefactor.

This has been an exceptional quarter since I last wrote you all. Thanks to LSR membership chair Larry Swigert, we signed up 50 new members at the Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour show in Ft. Worth in January. That follows two other Ft. Worth shows: the LMRA show and the Holiday Train show. About 2/3 of the new members signed up in January are from Tarrant and Denton counties. Many of these new members are also new to the hobby. Hopefully you can make it to the next division meeting in March and welcome these new members aboard. Perhaps one of them lives on your block.

As I write this, I am preparing for the Plano show. As in prior years, the LSR provides most of the clinics for the Plano show. This is part of our commitment to the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs as a member organization. I'd like to thank division members Don Murphey, Don Winn, Casey Akin and Cody Akin for presenting clinics as well as Division 3 member and go-to-guy Duane Richardson.

At the World's Gratest Hobby Show in Fort Worth in January, ***Duane Richardson*** *works with some weathering chalks as* ***Chris Atkins*** *pounds the keyboard. Keeping an eye on things in the background are* ***Jeff Palmer*** *and* ***Rickey Allinen*** *wearing a Division 3 uniform. The guy with the 'fast hand' is* ***Dave Kohler*** *answering a visitor's question. Behind him is* ***Don Winn*** *in blue and* ***Chris Galvin****. Photo by* ***Roy Stockard***

If you haven't heard, Division 1 and Division 3 are co-hosting the LSR convention this summer in Irving. More information can be found at http://lonestarexpress2013.com. This year's convention is shaping up to be one of the best yet. We are going to be one of the first groups to visit the Museum of the American Railroad's new home in Frisco. We are also planning Layout Design Special Interest Group (LDSIG) and Operations Special Interest Group (OPSIG) boot camps and other clinics focused on these subjects. There will be a room full of portable layouts to operate as well as more home operating sessions than any prior LSR convention. If you've never operated and would like to learn from the masters, the Lone Star Express 2013 will be a great opportunity.

The next meeting of the Cowcatcher Division will be Nov. 17th from 10AM until noon in room 1 of the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area Administration Building at 3400 Bryant-Irvin Blvd., Ft. Worth, TX 76019. We will have a clinic and opportunity to ask your questions. There will also be a popular vote contest, so bring your favorite models. A good story never hurts.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com. More information can be found found at http://cowcatcherdivision.com

Bayou Division 2

by Rod Fredericks
fredericks.rod@gmail.com
225.766.8014

In my last quarter *Marker Lamp* report I wrote how relieved I was that the summer heat was gone, and that the weather had moderated. Well now that autumn and the holiday season have passed I complain about the cold. It's near freezing outside and hasn't quit raining for two weeks! But enough of the weather wows here in SE Louisiana. I'm sure it hasn't been much better for the rest of the LSR.

Operations continue to be active here in the Bayou Division with a number of sessions over the past three months at **Art Houston's** in Houma and **Lou Schultz's** in Covington, and at the Mid-South Model Railroad Club here in Baton Rouge. As to the latter, the Mid-South has bi-monthly operating sessions which are open to operators outside the club. They are held on the first Saturday of each odd-numbered month. We have to limit the number to 22 operators (including club members). If you are interested in attending one of these afternoon sessions drop our club's operations chairman, Art Houston, an email to ahouston3@charter.net to get on the list. For other information about the club and layout, our web site is www.midsouthmodelrrclub.com.

Work at the club has slowed a little for the holidays, but there is still progress. A major accomplishment was getting a new air conditioner installed in the older section of the layout. The CTC signaling system continues to progress as well. The fifth node is operating, and we are starting on the sixth (of a total of eight).

On a personal note, work continues on my home layout. (What else can one do when the weather is so terrible, or at least that's the excuse I use?) All of the track on the upper level is in as well as most of the rock work. Now it's on to coloring the castings and painting the backdrop.

I'm also looking forward to the spring and the LSR convention in Dallas/Ft. Worth and hope to see you there.

So, that's all from the "Bayou" for now. Happy model railroading!

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR
jhoverson@tx.rr.com
972.540.5315

Welcome to your first on-line only copy of the *Marker Lamp*. Hope you all had a great holiday.

There have been some more changes taken place in our monthly meetings. First of all, we're still meeting at the South Branch of the Library located at 4845 Broadway Blvd. in Garland, however, we've moved to the 2nd Saturday of the Welcome to your first on-line only copy of the *Marker Lamp*. Hope you all had a great holiday.

There have been some more changes taken place in our monthly meetings. First of all, we're still meeting at the South Branch of the Library located at 4845 Broadway Blvd. in Garland, however, we've moved to the 2nd Saturday of the month. This was done to accommodate several folks who are actually Division 1 members but come to our meeting as well. **Chris Atkins** also holds Division 1 meetings on the 3rd Saturday, so our move de-conflicted this and allows members from either division to attend both meetings if they desire.

Our meetings' regular short segments are really doing well. Feedback indicates that our members enjoy show-n-tell, *DCC Corner* with Leonard, *Round Town* with Roy, *Duane's Tips & Tricks* and *Deal-or-Dud*. Many thanks to those guys for jumping in and do these segments.

Since the last *Marker Lamp* our clinic has been a 3-parter where we scratch built a water tank. This clinic had many options about what material to use and different roof styles to mention a couple. We also had a lot of fun with our 2nd annual "White Elephant" gift exchange in December. There's lot more to come so make plans to join us each month.

The biggest news is that **Larry Swigert** was able to get the NMRA a "VIP" booth at the Fort Worth Worlds Greatest Hobby Show the first week in January, and we signed up 45 new members for the LSR. A good bunch of these folks came to our January meeting where attendance numbered 74. Both are new records!

Take care, all, and keep "working on the railroad" but most of all, get involved with your division and have some railroading FUN!

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Jack Merkel
ElmerMerk@aol.com
512.355.3289

The NMRA/LSR was represented at the *Austin Model Railroad Jamboree* in Round Rock on Oct 27, and we signed up three new members. The Round Rock show also had a layout tour with 18 layouts open.

We had a Division meeting on Nov 17 at the Round Rock Library. **Frank Peacock** presented a clinic titled "Introduction to the Petroleum Industry." This clinic described oil drilling and production equipment and railroad operations in the oil fields. We had our show and tell session with several items shown. After the social time, the winners of the King's Hobby Shop gift certificates were picked during the Deal or Duds session. We then toured **Frank Glatzl's** Burlington Northern Railroad. Frank has some nice handlaid track switches.

Our next Division meeting will be on Saturday Feb 9 at the Round Rock Library beginning at 10:15 am. **Joe Dale Morris** will present a clinic titled "The Texas and New Orleans RR in Transition." We will have our normal show and tell table, social time and Deal or Duds. After the meeting, we will tour **Rudy Pirovitz's** *Eastview, Medford and Pacific Railroad*.

The library is located at 216 E. Main St. in Round Rock. On I-35, exit at RR 620 (Exit 252B) and proceed East on RR 620 for a few blocks to the intersection with Main St. and continue East on Main St. for another block and half to the library.

We do all communications about our Division 4 meetings via email. If you are not receiving emails about our Division meetings, that means I do not have a valid email address for you. Please send you email address to Elmermerk@aol.com

On the operating front, work continues on the CTC system for **David Barrow's** *Cat Mountain Railroad* between his normal operating sessions. **Chuck Ellis** is nearing operating sessions on his railroad which will feature his expanded railroad, new NCE DCC system and telephone system. **Pete Guy**, **David Nicastro** and I have routine operating sessions.

We have begun work on the 2014 LSR Convention which will be held in Round Rock. We have formed a committee and signed a contract with the hotel.

Until next time, try an operating session.
You will like it!

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts
DavidWL1944@aol.com
806.792.7244

Our club, the Lubbock Model Railroad Association (LMRA), had previously been granted exemption from franchise tax and sales tax as a 501c3 organization effective July 14, 1988. Our corporation's tax exempt status did not expire, but the corporate chapter for the LMRA was forfeited by the Secretary of State on November 1, 1995 for failure to file the report required by Article 9.01 of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (form 802).

I recently filed the Periodic Report of a Nonprofit Corporation (form 802) with Susan Combs, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. On January 11, 2013 our tax exempt status was reinstated.

If I had done this prior to our convention in 2011 we would have save a lot of money in tax.

Perhaps **Steven Barkley** could comment on this and make suggestions on whether or not this would be appropriate for other clubs?

Division 6

by Tom Crosthwait
t.crosthwait@sbcglobal.net
210.647.3261

My model railroading has been severely curtailed by many more responsibilities added to my paying job. I have not made contact with many modelers for about two months now. So, I will take this time to editorialize my thoughts and the thoughts of a few of the Division 6 members with whom I have spoken.

Several of the division members have noted their disappointment with the demise of the printed *Marker Lamp*. I always give the explanation that was agreed upon at the LSR meeting of our "need to better control our expenses." Since the *Marker Lamp* was our greatest expense, the board of directors decided to make these changes.

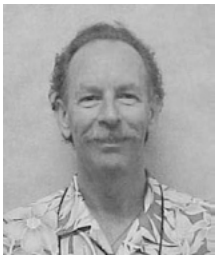
It finally dawned on me that the *Marker Lamp* was the last piece of tangible property that will be received from the LSR. You know, someone took the time to actually send me *something*. "Sure the Marker Lamp is still available, but now I have to go get it." I have to actually think about when it will be ready on the web site so I can go look for it. I'll have to spend time booting up my computer, accessing the internet, accessing the NMRA site then the LSR page and then begin to look for the *Marker Lamp*. Well, I hope that this only happens once and members will realize they can bookmark the page and go right to the *Marker Lamp*.

Sure, I haven't forgotten that there is a lot more to the NMRA/LSR than the *Marker Lamp*. There is the summer convention. There are meetings within most of the divisions. There are the friends that I have made over the last many years available to share thoughts and ideas with just a phone call or an e-mail.

As with any change, most folks don't like it because well, it's change. The *Marker Lamp's* moving to digital is going to happen whether I agree or not or even if I don't like it. I have had lots of change in my current job. I didn't always agree that it was necessary, but it has always worked out for the better. So, several years ago I decided to be a lot more open minded about business changes.

That is how I am personally going to handle the digital *Marker Lamp*. I'm going to be open-minded and embrace the change. I will make the effort to find it once and bookmark the site so it will be easier the next time. I will look forward to seeing those pictures in color. I will look forward to having more articles because we will not be confined to a number of pages that is a multiple of four. Maybe we will not have as many pages, but then there won't be the empty page stating your article could have been here. May that page will be replaced by a full page color picture.

I would like to extend my personal "Thank You" to **Chuck Lind** for always handling the *Marker Lamp* in a very professional manner. Chuck spent many hours putting each publication into a format to fit those multiples of four pages. But as with everything else, it's time for a change. I am looking forward to seeing what Riley will do to take us into the future.



Division 7

by Don Kimmell
elf4kcs@mac.com
318.798.7718

Hello again from North Louisiana, a bit wet, but dry up here. I hope everyone had a great Christmas, have a good New Year.

First off, the upcoming train shows.

March 2nd & 3rd: JETTS Longview Model Train Show Fairgrounds, off Hwy 31 on Jaycee Dr. Contact: Bill Pyle 903-522-1281.This always has been a nice one -usually a pretty good group of vendors and usually at least 4 or 5 layouts.

April 6th: First Annual Shreveport-Bossier Toy Train Show at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, 543 Ockley Drive, Shreveport. Contact: **Bert Sams** 318-742-6549 or **Mike Wimberly** 318-218-9862. This is the first year for this show. I know it says "Toy", but there will be some serious folks there plus at least one or two layouts. Bert has high hopes that this could turn into a 2-day show next year. It has been at least 5 or 6 years since we had any sort of train show here in Shreveport, so things could be fun. Hope to see you there!

April 27th & 28th Cotton Belts' Tyler Show, Harvey Hall at the East Texas Fair Grounds- across for the Tyler Rose Gardens in Tyler, TX. This is another one of our "local" shows - not really too big, but usually a good selection of vendors and layouts. Plus the money goes to help the restoration of the Cotton Belt Station in downtown Tyler. We do seem to have a busy spring ahead.

Here in Shreveport, the Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society has almost finished moving into their new home at the old Water Works on Cross Lake. They are planning a Grand opening in the near future. They have amassed a great collection of memorabilia over the years, and finally will get a chance to display things; they also have a number of cars they hope to move there in the future.

It was a quiet fall season around here with no Marshall Show in November.

Down in Alexandria, LA, the Treehouse Children's Museum folks have been busy. They raffled of a 4' x 7' HO layout that was constructed by their Jr. Engineer class. They do this as a fundraiser to help support the Museum. They are planning another class this spring. Requirements: boys or girls, between the ages of 8 to 12 years, with an adult to attend 4 to 6 weekly Saturday secessions, between 9:30am and noon there at the Treehouse. If anyone is interested you can contact them at (kidstreehouse@bellsouth.net) or call 318-619-9394 Tuesdays thru Saturdays. They are also planning a Spring Train Day for Saturday April 20th. They will be operating their permanent HO layout, plus some temporary N, O and G gage trains. In addition the will have Train Stories and Crafts through the day. All for the low admission of $4, (children under 2 free). Should be fun! The spring sure is filling up lots of train stuff!

The ArkLaTex Club did their usual 2 weeks at the Shriner's Hospital this past December, which is always appreciated by the patients and staff, plus they get to run their trains for 7 to 8 hours a day!

The KCS' Holiday Express had another great run, 66,200 visitors in 22 towns and cities over 24 days. It didn't even rain on us this year, a first! We even did a North Texas leg, Jefferson, Greenville, Wylie and Pittsburg. It was fun, I even got one of our Officers and his wife a ride-it was just suppose to be a lunch visit, but they had to "Y" the train, which turned into a 2 and half hour trip thru North Dallas, Garland, and a few other places. Ask Tom all about it, he was trilled to say the least.

I hope everyone plans on attending the LSR Convention this year in Irving. We were at the same place last time we were up there - nice place, and Marc and crew have a full schedule planned. Laurie Lind has a busy schedule also planned for the "non-rails", so go ahead and bring the wife/girlfriend/family. Hope toe see you there.

That is about it right now. I've got to finish the latest installment of Elf Tales.

Go Play Trains!

Texas Gulf Division 8
by Leslie Bodak
lbjbodak@gmail.com
281.486.0709

Division 8 had a very busy fall with our annual Fall Open House Tours. This a very exciting time for model railroad enthusiasts and a great way to introduce the hobby to the public. A very special Thank You to all who graciously opened their homes to share their layouts and love of the hobby.

Houston has several train shows scheduled in February. The Great Train Expo will be Saturday and Sunday, February 9-10 at Reliant Park and The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's 2013 Greater Houston Train Show will be held on Saturday, February 16 at The Stafford Center in Stafford, Texas. Division 8 will have a table at both shows.

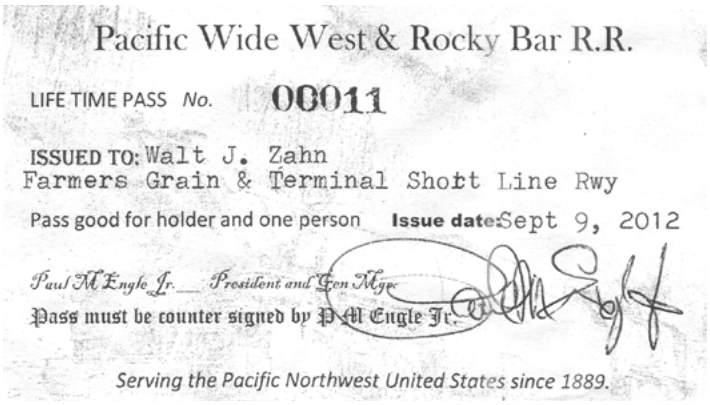
Also in February, the Houston Area Live Steamers (HALS) will be having their annual Chugga Chugga Chili Cook-off February 21-24 at Zube Park. This will be a great time to come out and enjoy some great chili and fellowship with fellow model railroaders.

In April, Division 8 will be having their annual chili cook-off and meeting. The date is tentatively set for April 20 in Alvin at the railroad station starting at 10:00 a.m. Alvin is a great location for railfanning, photo opportunities and spending time with fellow model railroaders.

The Division 8 Clinics begin in May and run through September. We are in the process of identifying a location to hold the clinics. Tentative days will be the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Pass Exchange Program

By Walter Zahn


Pacific Wide West & Rocky Bar R.R.

LIFE TIME PASS No. 00011

ISSUED TO: Walt J. Zahn
Farmers Grain & Terminal Shoit Line Rwy

Pass good for holder and one person Issue date: Sept 9, 2012

Paul M Engle Jr. President and Gen Mgr

Pass must be counter signed by Paul Engle Jr.

Serving the Pacific Northwest United States since 1889.

This quarter's pass exchange comes from the Pacific Wide West & Rocky Bar Railroad acquired from Paul Engle in Sagle, Idaho.

Next **Spring 2013** issue

May 15

The Marker Lamp

Pike Ads

AMARILLO RAILROAD MUSEUM

We meet Thursdays 7 to 10PM, and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month (10 AM to 4 PM). Business meeting, 1st Thursday of the month. Memberships open. From I-40, take the Lakeside exit (#75). Go north on Lakeside 2.2 miles to U. S. Highway 60. Turn right, go east 3.9 miles east, Turn right on I Ave., look for the yellow building with a red roof. P.O. Box 31105,Amarillo, TX 79120 (806) 335-3333. www.amarillorailmuseum.com

MILWAUKEE SOUTHWESTERN

"THE LINDAS"
WACO, TEXAS

WEST VIRGINIA WESTERN

"THE SHINE LINE"
HOUSTON, TEXAS HO & 1/2" SCALE

Advertise your layout here!

Contact
Tom Browning
thomascb2004@yahoo.com

THE SOUTH SIDE AND RIO MESA
Dallas, Texas

SOUTH SIDE RAILWAY MODELERS

An HO club layout being built to operate! Featuring DCC, signaling, train detection, computerized dispatching and car forwarding.

We currently have openings for all interests and skill levels. Join us Tuesdays at 7:30 in the historic Sears Catalog Warehouse - now the South Side on Lamar Building just south of the convention center in downtown Dallas.

www.railroadmodelers.com

Rock Island

Graham Branch
Southern Division

"Serving Jacksboro Since 1898"

Elbert Smith, Supt.
Garland, TX
972-681-0117
barbel_518@sbcglobal.net

DAWCHA SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO.

IRON HORSE ROUTE

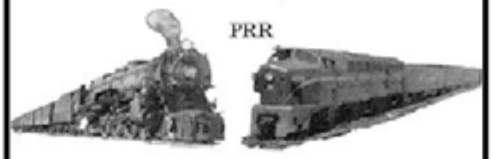
CHARLIE SPANGLER, PRES. 830-885-4515
2351 Rolling Creek Spring Branch, Tx 78070-5656

Gulf & Denver Railroad Authority

Home of the
Gulf & Denver Railroad
St. Charles & Western Railroad
Port Allen Terminal Railroad
Lone Pine & Eagle Pass Rwy.

LOCKHEED MARTIN RECREATION ASSOC.
RAILROAD ACTIVITY
FORT WORTH, TEXAS
Railroad Activity http://www.lmra.org/activity.html

THE ALLEGHENY RAILROAD
HORSESHOE CURVE
ALTOONA



Jerry Schoenberg
Carrollton, Texas (972) 242-9053
arrjerry@aol.com

The Greater Baton Rouge Model Railroaders

www.dovetailstudio.com/trains

Galveston Model Railroad Club and Museum

314 27th Street
Galveston TX 77550

SC&W

Gilbert Freitag Houston, Texas

NEVADUN RAILROAD

Jim Packer
Colleyville, Texas 76034
817-514-7291
E-mail - jim.packer@sbcglobal.net
Website - WWW.NEVADUNRAILROAD.COM

RND R

SAMRA

San Antonio Model Railroad Association

Located in the Bob Clarke Heritage Rail Museum
4000 Sq. Ft. Layout and Museum
7702 Narrow Pass, Live Oak, Texas 78233
*****
Meetings are 2nd Friday of every month, 7:30pm
*****
Two Big Train Shows Every Year in January and July
*****
Visit www.samratx.org for details and to order San Antonio & Northern LSR Commemorative Boxcars
Or call Ron Nagel 210 651-5188

Ruptured Duck & Dafler R.R.
1 1/2" Scale 7 1/2" Gauge
James C. Dafler P.O. Box 481
Devine, TX 78016 830-663-5786
email rdanddrr@att.net

MID SOUTH RAILROAD CLUB

BATON ROUGE, LA

MEETINGS: EVERY TUESDAY @ 7:00PM
HO WALK AROUND WITH NCE-DCC

JWG3RD@AOL.COM

Dealer Ads

G & G MODEL SHOP, INC.
2522 Times Boulevard • Houston, Texas 77005
(713) 529-7752

Pike Ads

Blackland Switching Company
www.texaszrail.com

Tom Browning MMR, Owner
5923 Over Downs Circle
Dallas, Texas 75230-4039
-692-9784 thomascb2004@yahoo.

Tall Pine Lumber Company

Tall Pine Lumber Company RR
West Coast Logging in On3
Chuck & Laurie Lind
3680 County Road 324
Navasota, Texas 77868
979-219-3305

Delta & Canyon Southern RailRoad
A Union Pacific Subsidiary
Established June 3rd, 1955
Dick Schneider
CEO & General Manager
418 Crossbow Dr.
New Iberia, LA 70563
TRAINS42@aol.com (337) 364-6931

VGN
The Virginian Railway
Now being built through
The Appalachians in O Scale
Michael Ross
Fort Worth, TX
www.vgnrailway.com

Pennsylvania Railroad
Laurel Valley Secondary
Pittsburgh Division Circa 1957
Brady & Jane McGuire, Sherman, Texas
903-868-2726
Southwestern Pennsylvania in Texas O Scale

PURGATORY & DEVIL RIVER RAILROAD
SERVICE TO THE HIGH COUNTRY
MOUNTAIN RAILROADING IN HOn3
http://www.purgatoryanddevilriver.com
PAUL RICHARDSON, MMR - PURGATORY DIVISION
DUANE RICHARDSON, MMR - EL LOBO DIVISION

BC&G
BAYOU CITY & GULF
www.houstonNcrowd.org

GRIZZLY RIDGE R.R.
1881 Grrr 1889
The Bear-ly Make It Route
A 6' Division of the
Ark-La-Tex Modular Club
Tom White Haughton, La.

GNAW BONE & WESTERN
G&B
The Kentuckiana Line
Jim Long Pearland, Texas

CHICAGO, FRENCH LICK & NEW ORLEANS R.R.
The Scenic LineThrough Southern Indiana
Jim Long Pearland, Texas

ACME & MINERAL CITY RAILROAD
Bill Dryden
469-964-8571
Georgetown, Texas
bdrl149@airmail.net
Life Member NMRA & LSR

APN Railroad
All Points North
Model Railroad Club
Conroe, Texas
Newly expanded 5,000 sq. ft. clubhouse
www.allpointsnorthmrrc.org

The TEXAS CENTRAL
The eyes of Texas Are Upon You!
Lone Star Route
Bob Batson
1914-56th Street
Lubbock, TX 79412

MAPLE VALLEY RR
Chuck & Karen Wilson
506 Innwood Drive
Georgetown, TX 78628-7606
Email:chuck@mvrr229.com
512-931-2715 Cell 512-694-1827

FARMERS GRAIN & TERMINAL
SHORTLINE RAILWAY
TIMETABLE No. 12
CHURCH LANE — COMMERCIAL ST.
W. J. Zahn PRES. - GEN. MGR.
A. C. Zahn TREAS. - DINING SUPT.
Tara Dawn Walker FRT. & PASS. AGENT
Traffic Dept: 270-0702